



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 14, 2005

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SENATOR CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$100,000 FOR NONVIOLENCE STREETWORKER PROJECT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee has been notified the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence (ISPN) has been awarded \$99,200 for the Nonviolence Streetworker Project. The project aims to provide advocacy and support to help persons make incremental changes to more peaceful, less violent lifestyles. The Streetworkers work intensively with out-of-school youth, helping them re-enroll in school or find GED or trade programs. A focus is placed on putting youth in contact with their families, recreational programs, health centers, sports, and other alternatives.

“Groups such as the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence are critical to supplement the responsibilities of our cities’ police officers. Due to their numerous duties, they are unable to devote an appropriate amount of time to keeping children off the street and back in classrooms, and I am pleased that the Department of Health and Human Services has given Rhode Island this funding to continue this important work,” Senator Chafee said. “With the trust and endorsement of the police, the Streetworker Project has flourished and been recognized as a contributing factor in the reduction of violence,” he continued.

Located in Providence, ISPM’s Nonviolence Streetworkers keep a presence on the streets to help dropouts get back into classrooms. They provide support and crisis intervention for young people in school, helping to alleviate conditions that might lead to their dropping out. They also work with clients’ families to help them meet their basic needs, including safe and affordable housing, food, and clothing. Nonviolence Streetworkers coordinate with law enforcement to identify problem areas and develop alternative responses to violence in the community. The Streetworkers and the Institute’s effectiveness in the community has been recognized by the Providence Police Department, being noted as a major factor for reducing violence by the Chief of Police in his 2004 Crime Statistics Report. They are available to respond to calls 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

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